

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of digitizing an image, comprising the steps of:
a service provider transporting a portable imaging system from a first location to a second location;
the service provider receiving the image to be digitized from a user at the second location;
the service provider scanning the image at the second location using the portable imaging system to produce a digital image;
the service provider receiving an order request associated with the digital image from the user; and
the service provider providing the digital image to a fulfiller for fulfillment of the order request.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of providing the digital image to the fulfiller is accomplished by transporting the portable imaging system to the fulfiller.
3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving payment from the user.
4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the step of receiving payment from the user is accomplished by inputting credit card information to the portable imaging system.
5. The method of Claim 3, wherein the portable imaging system comprises a scanning area for scanning the visual image to produce the digital image, and the step of receiving payment from the user is accomplished by scanning a user check using the scanning area.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of the service provider receiving a credit from a sponsor for some of the fee associated with producing an image product associated with the order request by agreeing to use the portable imaging system.

7. A method of digitizing an image, comprising the steps of:
transporting a portable imaging system from a first location to a second location;

accessing the image to be digitized at the second location;

scanning the image at the second location using the portable imaging system to produce a digital image;

storing the digital image in memory disposed in the portable imaging system;

generating an order request associated with the stored digital image; and

transporting the portable imaging system to the first location for fulfillment of the order request.

8. A method of collecting a digitized image, comprising the steps of:

a user providing the digitized image to the service provider at a predetermined location;

the service provider copying the digitized image at the predetermined location using a portable kiosk; and

the service provider providing the digitized image to a fulfillment service located at a fulfillment location remote from the predetermined location.

9. A method of producing a print from a visual image, comprising the steps of:

transporting a portable imaging system to a first location;

receiving the visual image from a user at the first location;

scanning the visual image at the first location using the portable imaging system to produce a digital image;

transporting the portable imaging system to a second location remote from the first location;

providing the digital image to a fulfiller for generation of the print from the digital image at a third location remote from the first location; and

providing the print to the user.

10. A method of digitizing an image provided by a user in which at least a portion of a fee associated with producing the digitized image is paid to a service provider by a fulfiller, comprising the steps of:

the service provider transporting a portable imaging system to a first location;

the service provider scanning the image at the first location using the portable imaging system to produce the digitized image;

the service provider transmitting the digitized image to the fulfiller located at a second location remote from the first location; and

the fulfiller providing a credit to the service provider for some of the fee associated with producing the digitized image using the portable imaging system.

11. A method of producing an image product from an image wherein at least a portion of a fee associated with producing the image product is paid to a service provider by a sponsor, comprising the steps of:

the service provider transporting a portable imaging system from a first location to a predetermined location;

the service provider receiving the image from a user at the predetermined location;

the service provider producing a digital image of the image using the portable imaging system at the predetermined location;

the service provider providing the digital image to a fulfiller for production of the image product; and

the service provider receiving a credit from the sponsor for some of the fee associated with producing the image product by the service provider agreeing to use the portable imaging system.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the fulfiller is the sponsor.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein the image product is produced at a second location remote from the predetermined location.

14. The method of Claim 11, wherein the service provider produces the digital image by scanning the image using the portable imaging system.

15. The method of Claim 11, wherein the image received from the user is in digital form, and the service provider produces the digital image by copying the image using the portable imaging system.

16. A method of producing an image product from an image, comprising the steps of:

transporting a portable imaging system from a first location to a second location;

receiving the image from a user at the second location;

using the portable imaging system at the second location to scan the image to produce a digital image;

transporting the portable imaging system to a third location remote from the second location;

transmitting the digital image from the portable imaging system to a image producing device disposed at the third location; and
producing the image product at the third location.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the digital image is transmitted by electrically connecting the portable imaging system to the image producing device at the third location.

18. The method of Claim 16, wherein the digital image is transmitted by electro-mechanical engagement or wireless communication.

19. The method of Claim 16, further comprising the step of providing the image product to the user.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of providing the image product to the user is accomplished by sending the image product to the user using a third-party delivery service.

21. The method of Claim 16, further comprising the step of sending an electronic message to the user comprising the digital image.

22. The method of Claim 16, wherein the third location is a retail location, and the step of producing the image product at the third location is accomplished when the retail location is not open for retail operation.

23. An image product produced in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

24. An image product produced in accordance with the method of Claim 11.

25. A computer storage product having at least one computer storage medium having instructions stored therein causing one or more computers to perform the method of Claim 1.

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